

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the office action mailed May 19, 2004. In the office action the Examiner:

- rejected claims 1, 6-9, 17, 22, 23, 28 and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Dillon et al. (US 5,663,661); and
- objected to claims 2-5, 10-16, 18-21, 24-27 and 29 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

After entry of this amendment, the pending claims are: claims 1, 3-14, 16-19, 21-35. The total number of pending claims, 32, remains unchanged.

It is noted that the changes to claims 1, 8 and 17 have been made to advance prosecution, and do not constitute an admission that the Examiner's rejections of those claims were properly based on the prior art of record. The Application reserves the right to resubmit those claims, or similar claims, in one or more continuation applications.

Overview of Changes to Claims

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2. (Claim 2 has been canceled.)

Independent claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 15. (Claim 15 has been canceled.)

Independent claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 20, with a correction in the phrasing of the limitation from claim 20. (Claim 20 has been canceled.)

Minor changes have been made to claims 3, 11, 13, 18 and 25 to correct minor errors in antecedent basis and the like

Dependent claim 9 has been amended to clarify that the divide-by-N circuit is an divide-by-N effective-frequency circuit. Support is found in the specification on p. 6, lines 14-19 and lines 24-25. Dependent claim 23 has been amended to clarify that the phase signal is generated as an effective-frequency-divided clock signal. Support is found in the specification on p. 6, lines 14-19 and lines 24-25. As a consequence, no new matter is introduced by these amendments.

New independent claim 33 is the same as previously pending claim 29, except that the names of the signals have been generalized (e.g., “first” and “second”) and the terms “master device” and “slave device” have been replaced by “first device” and “second device”.

New independent claim 34 is the same as previously pending claim 11, except that the names of the signals have been generalized (e.g., “first” and “second”) and the terms “master device” and “slave device” have been replaced by “first device” and “second device”.

New independent claim 35 is the similar to previously pending claim 25 (without intervening claim 22), except that the names of the signals have been generalized (e.g., “first” and “second”) and the terms “master device” and “slave device” have been replaced by “first device” and “second device”.

All pending claims now correspond to claims previously noted by the Examiner as being patentable over the prior art of record.

The six pending independent claims are claims 1, 8, 17, 33, 34 and 35.

Claim 1, as amended, corresponds to previously pending claim 2, which was noted by the Examiner in the office action as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 8, as amended, corresponds to previously pending claim 15, which was noted by the Examiner in the office action as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 17, as amended, corresponds to previously pending claim 20, which was noted by the Examiner in the office action as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. It is noted that the text from claim 20 has been revised as follows:

producing a receive clock signal having a frequency determined by said clock signal and a phase determined by said phase-from master signal. (change underlined).

This change is consistent with the specification and improves clarity.

Claim 33 is allowable for the same reasons as previously pending claim 29.

Claim 34 is allowable for the same reasons as previously pending claim 11.

Claim 35 is allowable for the same reasons as previously pending claim 25.

All other pending claims depend from the claims mentioned above, and are allowable at least for the reasons stated above.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 650 493-4935, if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

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Respectfully submitted,



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